

AAUPW Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.
Minutes

Attendees:

President -- Lynda Sagrestano
Program Committee -- Jane Straussguetl, Donna Schlimm
Treasurer – Robin Coker
Membership Secretary – Susan Voight
Book Club Coordinator – Patricia Biondo
IMMA Coordinator – Jane Scheiring
Digital Communication Coordinator – Claudia Ziersch
Debate Coordinator / New President – Dona Geyer
Sichere Wiesn Coordinator – Kate Rodriguez
New Vice-President – Shari Temple
New Membership Secretary – Elizabeth Soeder
GNO Coordinator – Alma Waller
Not in attendance - Ellen Sullivan, Christy Sando, Carolyn Berger, Dee Pattee

New Board Members

- New board Members were welcomed.
- All existing Board Members should make sure their job descriptions are accurate; update and send new version to Claudia for the website.
- Board Members stepping down need to turn over their responsibilities to their replacements.

Program Committee – Upcoming Events

- Walking Tour - Alex Koch will do a virtual Art History walking tour on June 19, 7:30 pm. (This is also Dona Donut's birthday 😊). Alex will be asked if she can record the presentation to be posted onto the AAUPW Website (if possible) so that members who are unable to attend can view it at a later date. Jane will prepare a short blurb for the newsletter and forward it to Claudia.
- July 4th – The official picnic is cancelled due to the Corona regulations. There was a discussion of offering an alternate informal meeting. If the restrictions have been eased more by early July, we can propose an impromptu gathering then. It might be possible to post a quiz online. Jane will be in touch with Dee.
Claudia will again post the cancellation of the picnic in the newsletter.
- Aging while Abroad panel – it was decided to postpone this until next year at a time when we can have our normal meetings again.
- Walking tour 2021 – Jane's friend Roberto would be available to do the walking tour next year.

- Donna proposed a woman she knows, who is an avid bird watcher and might be willing to speak at a future meeting. The suggestion was well accepted.

JYM

It has not yet been decided if JYM can continue this year. There are still about 15 students signed up for the fall semester. Elizabeth will keep us posted.

Budget

- Robin had nothing new to present.
- The fee to Alex for the walking tour can easily be covered by the budget

Membership

- It was decided in the last board meeting to raise the dues to 50 EUR for new and 35 EUR for returning members. This has already been communicated in the newsletter.
- The practice of giving a prize for the best attendance won't be initialized until we are again meeting in person. It is difficult to keep an accurate account of the attendance in the Zoom meetings – and problematic as not all members have access.

Digital Communication coordinator

- Claudia continues to migrate the data from the Google drive to the website. All members will have access to the archived data. The minutes of board meetings from only the last 2 or 3 years will be included.
- Wendy plans to upload some documents which will also need to be migrated.
- Robin will review the Treasurer documents and get in touch with Claudia
- Claudia will also order new greeting cards with the AAUPW Logo on the cover. It could be that Wendy has already done something toward this

2020 Presidential Debate.

- Amerikahaus has now moved back to its original location. Dominik Raabe will give Dona a tour of the new building
- It has not yet been decided if the debate will only be streamed or if the speakers will attend in person in front of a limited audience as well. This option is preferred.
- The speakers will be the German chair of Democrats Abroad Germany, Candice Kerestan, and Dr. George Weinberg for the Republicans. The moderator is not yet definite

IMMA

- Due to the Corona restrictions, Jane hasn't been to the center in a while

- The girls still want to have the brunch on June 21. Jane is considering preparing the brunch and then leaving when the girls arrive, setting up an activity for later.
- Hopefully we can have IMMA attend a meeting in autumn.

Book club

Book club is working well as an online meeting. The members should be reminded that the person who chooses the book is also responsible for leading the discussion.

GNO

- Alma wonders if it is worthwhile to continue. In the activity she organized there were only 3 participants.
- Suggestions were made: Maybe schedule something on the weekend when people may have more time. Often just a dinner at an interesting restaurant attracted quite a few members.
- It's a good way to get to know the members better and is fun even if not many come along. There doesn't have to be a GNO every month.

Honorary lifetime members

Claudia suggested giving Dee (and perhaps Barbara and Maria) a lifelong honorary membership to honor their long-time participation in AAUPW. After a discussion about what criteria would have to be used to decide who would get the membership, it was decided to let it drop.

Board structure

The board has many members, making it difficult to make decisions on issues which can't wait until the next board meeting. It was decided to form an Executive Committee, which would be able to make decisions, especially on urgent issues. This committee would consist of the president, the previous president, the vice-president and the communications coordinator. Depending on the issue at hand, any other members of the board or even non-board members could be included as needed. If no consensus can be met by the executive committee, the entire board would have to be involved.

Demo against racism

This Saturday there is a demonstration planned. There is not a lot of information available as to the organization, so it was decided that we would not go as AAUPW carrying our banner. Anyone wanting to take part can meet at 1:45 pm in front of the Kunstlerhaus (previously Mövenpick) just north of Karlsplatz. Claudia will inform all members.